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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/646,241 | 08/22/2003 | Peter Jungklas Nybo | VOL 049 P2 | 9395 |

34232 7590 04/27/2006

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EXAMINER

BELT, SAMUEL E

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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3746

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/646,241

Applicant(s)

NYBO ET AL.

Examiner

Samuel E. Belt

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-5, 7-20, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by IFM Electronic GMBH (DE19927365).

IFM Electronic GMBH discloses a process for controlling one or more pumps in a system with which the pumps comprise a signal generator (Figures 3-8, item 2) which switches on the pump, and each pump subsequent to its running is firstly automatically blocked by changing its switching value at which the pump is switched on by the signal generator from an initial switching value to a second switching value so that the same pump is prevented from being directly activated when again reaching said initial switching value, and depending on the running of the further pumps in the pump sump

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is released again (See Translation, page 6+); for each pump subsequent to its operation the fluid level threshold value at which the pump is started is firstly increased proceeding from an initial threshold value and depending on the running of the further pumps in the pump sump is released again (See Translation, page 15+).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 21-24, & 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over IFM Electronic GMBH (DE19927365) in view of Mayer (US Patent 4,222,711). IFM Electronic GMBH (DE19927365) sets forth a device as described above, which is substantially analogous to the claimed invention. The IFM Electronic GMBH device differs from the claimed invention in that there is no explicit teaching of using a level switch comprising pressure sensor. Mayer teaches a sump pump control system and that it is well known in the art to use a pressure sensor as a means for sensing liquids levels (column 1, lines 19+).

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the IFM Electronic GMBH device by using the pressure sensor as taught by Mayer to provide a level switch which does not have to

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come into contact with the pumped fluid to determine the level of fluid in the sump thus reducing the chances of the sensor failing due to corrosion.

Response to Amendments

In view of the applicant's amendments, the objections to the drawings and claims 1-25 are hereby withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 7-9, 12-14, 17, 19-21, & 24 have been fully considered but they are deemed moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Since new grounds of rejection have been made, this office action is being made non-final to afford the applicant the opportunity to respond to the new grounds of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

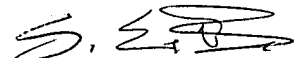
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel E. Belt whose telephone number is (571) 272-7820. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8 - 4:30EST.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Thorpe can be reached on (571) 272-4444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SEB


Samuel E. Belt
04/19/06


TAE JUN KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER